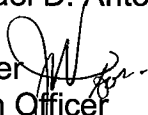# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE
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JON W. FULLINWIDER
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

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April 20, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
        Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair Pro Tem
        Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite
        Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
        Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Jon W. Fullinwider
        Chief Information Officer

COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM STATUS REPORT

On January 20, 2004, your Board instructed the Chief Information Officer to coordinate an assessment of the Candle Corporation's NC-4 System and other applicable systems with the assistance of the Chief Administrative Office's Office of Emergency Management, the Sheriff, Fire Chief, Interim Director of Internal Services, and Director of Public Works. The assessment is to evaluate the systems as a solution for improving regional communications, visibility and status of incidents that may be precursors to major events at the local, state and/or national levels. This report provides the status to date on our assessment of feasibility for an automated county/region communications and information sharing system. The final assessment will include costs/benefits, community involvement, criteria for assessing potential systems and functional and legal requirements for developing a contract with a company to form a public/private partnership.

Participating Departments:

In addition to the five (5) departments indicated in the Board Motion, it was determined that, in the best interest of the County, the Department of Health Services should also be included in this evaluation effort. This decision was based on the significant value of health-related data (hospital admissions/vacancies, reportable disease notifications, etc.) and the relevance of this data to Homeland Security and public safety issues.

"Enriching Lives"

Study Approach:

The assessment and feasibility study is being conducted in five phases:

Phase 1 -   Departmental Management Orientation
             (Status: Completed)

             A meeting was held with each of the identified department's senior
             management staff to provide them with an overview of the assessment
             and feasibility study objectives and to solicit their input and support for the
             project. Management staff was also asked to recommend operations and
             technical representatives to assist in this effort.

Phase 2 -   Identification of Available Data Streams Within and Outside the County
             (Status: Completed)

             A joint meeting was held with the identified departments' managerial,
             technical and operational staff to identify available data streams from their
             respective departments and to discuss any barriers that might inhibit
             sharing this information with other entities within or outside the County.

Phase 3 -   Assessment of the Usefulness or "Value" of the Identified Data Streams
             (Status: Completed)

             The information obtained in Phase 2 was used to develop a questionnaire
             for each department to assess the relative "value" of the data streams
             available within and outside the County and to indicate the benefits of
             providing this information in electronic form to enhance departmental
             effectiveness and efficiency.

Phase 4 -   Development of Functional Requirements and Evaluation Criteria for an
             Automated System:
             Status: Completed)

             A high-level functional requirements matrix was developed that identifies
             the key features and functions for an automated system. Based on the
             survey results and meetings with the identified departments, key user
             features included: data collection as a by-product of normal business
             operations, by-directional messaging/alerts, no extensive departmental
             process change, staff work or expense, multiple intake and filtering
             (security) options, user selectable geographic and tabular displays of
             information, etc.

This office has also developed the technical requirements for the system to support the business requirements established by the identified departments for inclusion in the Assessment and Feasibility Study Report.

Phase 5 - Develop an Assessment and Feasibility Study Report with Review and Sign-Off by Indicated Departments
(Status: In progress, partially completed)

The outline for the final Feasibility Study report has been completed and data is being collected on alternative systems for comparison with NC4. Based on the analysis of alternative systems using the criteria established in Step 4, the study team will develop a cost/benefit analysis and complete the final report.

Based on the complexity of the project and the availability of departmental resources to focus on this project, we anticipate that the final Feasibility Study Report will be submitted to your Board on or before May 20, 2004.

If you have questions regarding the status of the County/Regional Communications & Information Sharing System Feasibility Study, please contact me at 213.974.2008 or John McIntire, Associate CIO, at 213.974.2154.

JWF:JM:ygd

c: Administrator, Office of Emergency Management
Chair, Information Systems Commission
County Counsel
Director, Department of Public Works
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Fire Chief
Interim Director, Internal Services Department
Sheriff

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